

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (currently amended) A surgical device, comprising:
 - a) an ergonomic handle having an upper portion and a grip portion, the upper portion having an handle aperture formed in a sidewall and accessible and operable by a single finger of a user;
 - b) a finger actuator having an actuating finger receiving portion within and accessible through the handle aperture, the finger actuator being sized and shaped to receive the finger of the user, the finger actuator comprising a finger-receiving portion operable with a translating shaft;
 - c) an elongated tubular portion extending from the ergonomic handle and having a longitudinal axis; and
 - d) a rod functionally disposed within the tubular portion along the longitudinal axis, the rod being directly coupled proximally to the translating shaft of the finger actuator and configured to be coupled distally to a functional end, wherein the finger actuator moves in a non-pivoting, linear manner to directly effectuate an equidistant linear movement of the rod while maintaining a hand of the user about the ergonomic handle in a position consistent with a functional position about the ergonomic handle of the hand.
2. (original) A surgical device as in claim 1, further comprising a functional end coupled to a distal end of the rod, such that bidirectional pressure applied by the single finger to the finger actuator along the longitudinal axis manipulates the functional end in a bidirectional manner in a common direction to the bidirectional pressure.
3. (original) A surgical device as in claim 2, further comprising a ratcheting mechanism to lock the finger actuator in a fixed position, thus locking the functional end in a fixed position.
4. (original) A surgical device as in claim 2, wherein the functional end is free to rotate around the longitudinal axis.
5. (original) A surgical device as in claim 1, wherein the elongated tubular portion is

detachable from the ergonomic handle.

6. (original) A surgical device as in claim 1, wherein the ergonomic handle has a shape of a pistol grip.
7. (original) A surgical device as in claim 6, wherein a portion of the pistol grip that is substantially out of line with the longitudinal axis can be manipulated into a position that is substantially in line with the longitudinal axis.
8. (original) A surgical device as in claim 6, wherein a portion of the pistol grip that is substantially out of line with the longitudinal axis is detachable.
9. (original) A surgical device as in claim 2, wherein the functional end is selected from the group consisting of a grasper, scissors, a blade, a laser and a needle holder.
10. (original) A surgical device as in claim 2, wherein the functional end is a grasper.
11. (original) A surgical device as in claim 2, wherein the functional end is scissors.
12. (currently amended) A surgical system operated by a single finger, comprising:
 - a) an ergonomic handle having an upper portion and a grip portion, the upper portion having an handle aperture formed in a sidewall and accessible and operable by a single finger of a user;
 - b) a finger actuator having an actuating finger receiving portion within and accessible through in the handle aperture, the finger actuator being sized and shaped to receive the finger of the user, the finger actuator comprising a finger-receiving portion operable with a translating shaft;
 - c) an elongated tubular portion extending from the ergonomic handle and having a longitudinal axis, the translating shaft of the finger actuator being positioned substantially in line with the longitudinal axis of the tubular portion; and

- d) a rod functionally disposed within the tubular portion along the longitudinal axis, the rod being directly coupled proximally to the translating shaft of the finger actuator and coupled distally to a functional end, such that bidirectional pressure applied by the single finger to the finger receiving portion of the finger actuator to move the translating shaft in a non-pivoting, linear manner along the longitudinal axis manipulates the functional end in a bidirectional manner in a common direction to the bidirectional pressure.
13. (original) A surgical system as in claim 12, further comprising a ratcheting mechanism to lock the finger actuator in a fixed position, thus locking the functional end in a fixed position.
14. (original) A surgical system as in claim 12, wherein the functional end is free to rotate around the longitudinal axis.
15. (original) A surgical system as in claim 12, wherein the elongated tubular portion is detachable from the ergonomic handle.
16. (original) A surgical system as in claim 12, wherein the functional end is selected from the group consisting of a grasper, scissors, a blade, a laser and a needle holder.
17. (original) A surgical system as in claim 12, wherein the functional end is a grasper.
18. (original) A surgical system as in claim 12, wherein the functional end is scissors.
19. (currently amended) A method of manipulating a surgical instrument with a single finger, comprising the following steps:
- a) grasping the surgical instrument with a hand of a user;
 - b) inserting the single finger of the user into a finger receiving portion of a finger actuator located within and accessible through an handle aperture of an ergonomic handle of the surgical instrument;

- c) moving the single finger in a direction away from the hand, causing the finger actuator to move in a non-pivoting, linear manner away from the hand to directly effectuate operation of a functional end while continually maintaining a hand of the user in a functional position about the ergonomic handle; and
 - d) moving the single finger in a direction toward the hand, causing the finger actuator to move in a non-pivoting, linear manner toward the hand to directly effectuate operation of the functional end while further continually maintaining the hand of the user about the ergonomic handle in a position consistent with a~~the functional position about the ergonomic handle of the hand.~~
20. (previously presented) A method of manipulating a surgical instrument with a single finger as in claim 19, further comprising the step of actuating a rotator with the single finger to rotate the functional end.
21. (new) A surgical device, comprising:
- a) an ergonomic handle having an upper portion and a grip portion, and a finger receiving portion of a finger actuator disposed within the upper portion and accessible to a single finger of the grasping hand through a handle aperture formed in a sidewall of the upper portion;
 - b) an elongated tubular portion extending from the upper portion of the ergonomic handle and having a longitudinal axis, the finger actuator being positioned substantially in line with the longitudinal axis of the tubular portion; and
 - c) a rod functionally disposed within the tubular portion along the longitudinal axis, the rod being coupled proximally to the finger actuator and configured to be coupled distally to a functional end.